COUN503 Intro to Counseling

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Takeaway 4

On September 29th, we had a panel discussion featuring school and college counselors, and it was fantastic. The panelists were energized, passionate, and diverse in experience, each clearly communicating their missions. The discussion was informative from the perspective of workplace variability, from working with young children in construction-paper decorated classrooms, to advising college aged students with disabilities on a modern campus. What stood out for me was the similarities in the power each had in their advocacy for their clientele—in any venue. This energy, heightened by the storm we were all dealing with at the time of the discussion, not only impressed me in the moment, but allowed me to begin thinking of the possibility of collaboration with like-minded professionals in the years to come.

One of the messages I took away is that the students’ age difference makes for a completely different counseling experience from the perspective of boundaries. Two panelists regularly felt deep concern sending their school age clients home to an unstable situation. Another panelist, working with college age students, was able to bracket her worry, knowing that they are, for the large part, able to do for themselves.

Each counselor was articulate and inspired. Truthfully, I have no idea what is in store for me in the years ahead, upon licensure. I may work in the field in which I have experience, autism, or I may be called to do something completely different. My takeaway from this class was to follow my passion, and, as these panelists did, to speak clearly and boldly in my advocacy.